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Allen Dulles Dead; Director Of CIA

The death of Allen W. Dulles in Washington last night recalls his long service to our country as a diplomat, like his late brother, Secretary of State John Foster Dulles, and as director of the Central Intelligence Agency.

Such was the eminence he attained as the head of American espionage that the public all but forgot the contribution he made to U. S. diplomacy in Europe and Washington. He was a member of the American commission at the Paris peace conference at the end of the First World War.

Embarking on a career of government service at the age of 23, he served every American President from Wilson to Nixon. But so far as the general public was concerned, it was as a cloak-and-dagger man that he will be remembered because of the mystery of his role. He also had special assignments.

Obviously, no matter what happens in the course of duty, the CIA is not in a position to discuss developments or the degree of its participation. So Mr. Dulles was a convenient target for administration critics, one of the inevitable prices he had to pay.

The fact that he received the Medal of Merit, a Presidential Citation and the Medal of Freedom here and other decorations from France, Italy and Belgium testifies to the outstanding record he compiled, despite the fact that his post made him a convenient target and cut him off from publicity as he served his country behind the scenes.

In death, he rates a salute from a grateful country.